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Synthesis of Orthogonally Fused Conducting Oligomers for Molecular Electronic Devices

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Described is an approa	ich to orthogonally f	fused conjugated	organic compounds that			
may act as molecular sy	witching devices. For	ir thiophene trime	ers are added in a single			
operation to spiro-fuse	ed cores to afford	the target mol	lecules. A spiro-fused			
thiophene-based monomer	r system is converted	to a spiro-fused	d heptamer that is 25 Å			
			ystem is described that			
			case, alkyl substituents on			
			end groups flank each			
			organonickel-catalyzed			
	extensively for the	synthesis of	the orthogonally fused			
compounds.						
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Synthesis of Orthogonally Fused Conducting Oligomers for Molecular Electronic Devices 1

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Since the time of the first room-filling computers, there has been a tremendous drive to compress the size of computing instruments. In order to bring this desire to its extreme, it was conceived that one may be able to construct single molecules that could each function as a self-contained electronic device. ²· ³ Here we outline the convergent and flexible synthesis of two different macromolecules that approach the size necessary for molecular switch testing. Hence, the feasibility of molecular electronic devices, whether the architectures be of single molecule or ensemble arrangements, may soon be experimentally addressed.

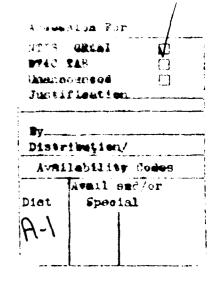
Recently, Aviram of the IBM Corporation suggested that molecules ~50 Å long that contain a pro-conducting (non-doped or non-oxidized system, hence insulating) chain that is fixed at a 90° angle via a non-conjugated sigma bonded network to a conducting (doped or oxidized system) chain should exhibit properties that would make them suitable for interconnectic into future molecular electronic devices. These devices may be useful for the memory, logic, and amplification computing systems.⁴ 1, in doped form, is an

$$H\left(\begin{array}{c} S \\ \end{array}\right)_{n} \left(\begin{array}{c} S \\ \end{array}\right)_{n} H$$

$$H\left(\begin{array}{c} S \\ \end{array}\right)_{n} \left(\begin{array}{c} S \\ \end{array}\right)_{n} H$$

example of a pro-conducting/ σ /conducting molecule. Until recently, all experimental studies on orthogonal systems had dealt only with the spiro core of related molecules and no synthetic approach demonstrated incorporation of the oligomeric chains. 5,6

We described a facile approach to the core of two molecules which fit the general class of systems necessary for this electronic model. The thiophene-based core (2) was synthesized in two steps from the tetra-alkyne (3) by treatment with $Cp_2Zr(n-Bu)_2$ and S_2Cl_2 followed by bromodesilylation with Br_2 . The phenylene-based core (4) was prepared in a four step sequence from 2-aminobiphenyl. 7,8 In





a single operation, we hoped to introduce the four branches onto the core units. In order to keep the final products soluble, it was necessary to use 3-alkylthiophenes as the branching units. Alkylated phenylenes have inferior conductivities due to the severe out of plane distortions of the consecutive aryl units. 9-11

Scheme 1

Functionalized and alkylated thiophene trimers synthesized as shown in scheme I (yields listed for $R = CH_3$).¹²-14 When the silylated thiophene unit in 8 had a 3-methyl substituent, desilylation was rapid upon silica chromatography (even with amine-washed silica gel). Carbocationic character was sufficiently stabilized in the trimer (not the monomer or dimer) by both the \beta-silicon and α-methyl to allow for this rapid protodesilylation. Thus we chose to keep the terminal thiophene unit free of an alkyl These trimers possesses several of the desired substituent. properties. namely (1) a terminal tributylstannyl substituent for attachment to the cores (2) alkyl groups for maintaining the solubility, and (3) a terminal trimethylsilyl group for

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future chemoselective modification of the final orthogonal oligomers to permit adhesion to nanolithographic probes.¹⁵

Treatment of the core 2 with excess 8 in the presence of 8 mol % of Pd(PPh₃)₄ afforded the target orthogonal thiophene system 10 in 86 % yield. ^{16,17} Similarly, the core 4 was treated with 9 and 8 mol % of Pd(PPh₃)₄ to give the mixed phenylene-thiophene spiro fused octamer 11 in 60 % yield. ¹⁸ Compounds

10 and 11 are approximately 25 Å and 30 Å in length (excluding the trimethylsilyl substituents), respectively, as determined by MMX with extended π Hückel parameters. 19 Both 10 and 11 are soluble in many organic solvents which will simple processing; however, without the alkyl substituents, these materials are intractable. Interestingly. while most fast atom bombardment mass spectra (FAB/MS) resemble chemical ionization spectra in providing primarily even-electron cations or anions (i.e. M+H),²⁰ both 10 and 11 readily showed M+ data in 3-nitrobenzyl alcohol (NBA) and onitrophenyloctylether (ONPOE) matrices, respectively. 17,18 This is an indication of the ease of oxidation of these oligomers which was confirmed in cyclic voltammetry studies on 10 that showed two reversible waves with anodic peak potentials (E_{na}) at 0.68 and 1.05 V.21,22

In order to understand the orthogonally fused systems more fully, several oligothiophenes (shown below) were prepared and their electrochemical properties were investigated. 23

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- (17) Spectral data for 10. UV (CHCl₃) λ_{max} 456 nm, ϵ_{max} 2.94 x 10⁴, tailing edge 545 nm. IR (KBr) 2950, 1132, 991, 839 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.19 (1/2 ABq, J = 2.5 Hz, 4 H), 7.15 (1/2 ABq, J = 2.5 Hz, 4 H), 6.99 (s, 4 H), 6.93 (s, 4 H), 2.40 (s, 12 H), 2.37 (s, 12 H), 2.33 (s, 8 H), 0.31 (s, 36 H). FAB/MS (NBA) calc'd relative isotopic intensities for C₈₀H₈₄S₁₄Si₅ (M+): 1632 (64%), 1633 (80%), 1634 (100%), 1635 (83%), 1636 (83%), 1637 (40%), 1638 (23%). Found: 1632 (77%), 1633 (96%), 1634 (100%), 1635 (94%), 1636 (79%), 1637 (56%), 1638 (45%).
- (18) Spectral data for 11. UV (CHCl₃) λ_{max} 418 nm, ϵ_{max} 2.91 x 10⁵, tailing edge 495 nm. IR (thin film) 2955, 2927, 1458, 1250, 990 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 4 H), 7.65 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.6 Hz, 4 H), 7.14 (1/2 ABq, J = 3.4 Hz, 4 H), 7.13 (1/2 ABq, J = 3.4 Hz, 4 H), 6.98 (s, 4 H), 6.95 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 4 H), 6.89 (s, 4 H), 2.71 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 8 H), 2.67 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 8 H), 1.65 -1.52 (m, 16 H), 1.36 (sext, J = 7.7 Hz, 16 H), 0.91 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 12 H), 0.87 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 12 H), 0.31 (s, 36 H). FAB/MS in (ONPOE) calc'd relative isotopic intensities for C₁₁₇H₁₃₆S₁₂Si₄ (M+): 2037 (51%), 2038 (83%), 2039 (100%), 2040 (89%), 2041 (67%), 2042 (43%), 2043 (25%), 2044 (13%), 2045 (6%). Found: 2037 (61%), 2038 (88%), 2039 (100%), 2040 (93%), 2041 (72%), 2042 (50%), 2043 (34%), 2044 (21%), 2045 (11%). Anal. calc'd for C₁₁₇H₁₃₆S₁₂Si₄: C, 68.96; H, 6.68. Found: C, 68.14; H, 6.86.
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